

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A process of producing a wax composition comprising a microcrystalline wax, polyisoprene rubber or natural rubber as a polymer, and a filler, said process comprising:

kneading the microcrystalline wax and the polymer to prepare a wax/polymer composition comprising 50-95% by weight of the microcrystalline wax and 5-50% by weight of the polymer, wherein said kneading comprises

a first kneading substep to prepare a masterbatch comprising 5% to 45% by weight of the microcrystalline wax and 55% to 95% by weight of the polymer, and a second kneading substep in which an additional amount of the microcrystalline wax is added to the masterbatch followed by further kneading; and
kneading a filler into the wax/polymer composition;

wherein

the first kneading substep is carried out by kneading the microcrystalline wax and the polymer at a temperature lower than the melting completion temperature of the microcrystalline wax,

the first kneading substep is carried out by putting the whole amount of the polymer in a kneader all at once and then adding the microcrystalline wax thereto in divided portions, and

the second kneading substep is carried out by putting the whole amount of the masterbatch in a kneader all at once and then adding the microcrystalline wax thereto in divided portions.

Claims 7-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process of producing a wax composition according to claim 9 claim 6, wherein the divided portions of the microcrystalline wax in the first kneading substep each range from 1% to 15% by weight of the whole amount of the polymer.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process of producing a wax composition according to ~~claim 9~~ claim 6, wherein the portion of the microcrystalline wax in the first kneading substep increases gradually with the number of times of adding the microcrystalline wax.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process of producing a wax composition according to ~~claim 7~~ claim 6, wherein the first kneading substep is carried out by kneading the microcrystalline wax and the polymer in a batch kneader, the total amount of the microcrystalline wax and the polymer to be put in the batch kneader being 60% to 100% of the capacity of the kneader.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The process of producing a wax composition according to ~~claim 7~~ claim 6, wherein the second kneading substep is carried out by kneading the microcrystalline wax and the masterbatch at a temperature lower than the melting completion temperature of the microcrystalline wax.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The process of producing a wax composition according to ~~claim 14~~ claim 6, wherein the divided portions of the microcrystalline wax in the second kneading substep each range from 5% to 30% by weight of the whole amount of the masterbatch.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The process of producing a wax composition according to ~~claim 14~~ claim 6, the portion of the microcrystalline wax in the second kneading substep increases gradually with the number of times of adding the microcrystalline wax.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The process of producing a wax composition according to ~~claim 7~~ claim 6, wherein the second kneading substep is carried out by kneading the microcrystalline wax and the masterbatch in a batch kneader, the total amount of the microcrystalline wax and the masterbatch to be put in the batch kneader being at least 60% of the capacity of the kneader.